CLINTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Newark 8 New Jersey

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Record of meeting May 26, 8 p.m. at 51 Shanley Avenue.

Present: Stan Winters, president; Lee Bailey, treasurer, Stan Hallett, vice-pres.; Elsia Smith, vice-pres.; Al Finn, secretary; Mildred Helms, vice-president; Stan Aronowitz, vice-pres.; Ralph Sims, chairman, constitution committee; Florence Gaynor, chairman, education committee; Helen Winters, chmn, block-building committee; Horace Thomas, chmn, zoning committee; Louise Branson, co-chmn, welfare & welcome committee.

The essential business of the meeting consisted of reports of the activities of the various committee and a critical discussion of their methods of operation and goals.

1. Budget & Finance - under Lee Bailey. Membership today stands at an all-time high for the CHNC, being over 300., paid for 1958. But at least 75 individuals have yet to renew for '58. Cards with their names will be given to the block leaders if they live on a street where a branch exists. Others will be contacted by 'phone, by a visiting team, or by mail. Institutional membership has some new ones for '58, but also several renewals for the year still to be made. Again, personal visits will be made.

The current status of the treasury was:

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| Cash in bank: | $252.00 |
| Bills payable: | 56.13 |
| Balance | 195.87 |

2. Program committee - under Eugene Slaughter (at block meeting being held that evening), organized Conference at South Side. Holding of Conference a great achivement for this committee because many of its members were new to program work. But actual conference itself was top-heavy, too many talked to the people; not enough time for actual discussion groups. Attendance dropped about 30 from previous conferences. Reasons: 1)Incomplete coverage of neighborhood by publicity; 2)Council pre-occupation with Cleanup campaign and electioneering ; 3)Repetition in structure of conference carrying over from prior years. May need revision.

3. Public Affairs - under Bill Wallace (absent). Holding open forum for candidates on April 28 attracted 45 persons. Valuable in airing questions before candidates. Not all invited attended. Again, incomplete publicity given to forum. Small interest-cards to be distributed throughout Clinton Hill received only partial circulation. Questionnaire drawn up by committee was a departure, and a healthy one, but was hindered by crowded appearance on page and slanting of questions to pre-dispose answers; not an adequate or scientific survey. Results of those filled out and returned should be tabulated and announced. Committee should arrange to have at least one representative at all City Council meetings.

3. Health & Sanitation - this committee has never actually been organized. Al Finn was responsible for it but the actual legwork in organizing the Cleanup Campaign was done by an "ad hoc" group under Stan Winters and Mildred Helms. Al asked to be relieved of any responsibility for the committee, but agreed to help get it together. Mildred Helms agreed to take the H & S Committee at Helen Winters suggestion, but asked to be relieved of Zoning, which went to Stan Aronowitz.

The critical importance of the H & S committee was noted, especially in the summer when garbage and litter can spread disease, attract vermin, etc. It was agreed that this committee would meet soon and begin an unremitting campaign with City Hall and with violating lanlords to clean up the worst streets. Films, speakers, and other aids would be used.

4. Zoning - Horace Thomas, chairman. This committee had not met in almost three months and was criticized for not taking action in a decisive area. Zoning violations are multiplying, and constant pressure, publicity, and education are needed to prevent the entire zoning situation in Clinton Hill from becoming a mockery. Possibiilities of civil action were mentioned. Horace mentioned svereal actions which were taken, especially an investigation of a store which applied fora variance at Bergen and Madison. A meeting of the committee was set for June 5, at 81 Seymour Avenue.

5. Block Building - under Helen Winters. Outstanding work has been accomplished by this committee which has increased by 13 the number of block branches. Others are in process of formation, and the possibility of 25 altogether by the end of the year was mentioned. But the committee needs reinforcements. The task of nurturing new blocks is a time-consuming one, and the present members are unable to carry the full load. Helen mentioned a meeting coming up which she hoped would see membership expanded. She has also prepared a manual for block-organizing. Ralph Sims volunteered to help.

6. Constitution - Ralph Sims, chairman. The proposed amendments to the Constitution will be presented at the next Executive Board meeting on June 11. The proposed By-Laws will be presented at a later date. The committee was commended for outstanding work.

7. Education - chairman, Florence Gaynor. Mr. Fuchs, pres. of the Bd. of Education has proved evasive and unwilling to meet with the committee. He suggests we meet with Dr. Kennelly instead. A two-hour conference with Mr. Titus, Asst. Supt. produced no recollection on his part of any promise made by Dr. Kennelly to build a new school as part of the 14-block Urban Renewal project. The possibility of aid from the Natl Committee for Better Schools was mentioned. Florence agreed to be Council delegate to the Educational Needs Committee being set up by the Assoc. Community Councils to coordinate city-wide efforts for better schools.

The committee was authroized to call a Clinton Hill-wide conference on education in the early fall, to get a broad committee for Better Schools going, involving as many persons in the community as possible, whether or not Council members. Letters on the schools plight will be mailed to the Newark News and Ledger. Perhaps some of the large homes could be used as temporary ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ quarters to

house classes, and, this proving infeasible, other quarters might be sought to cut classroom size (use of Fuld House facilities in Cleaveland JHS district cited).

The next Board of Education meeting (June 17) and subsequent ones should be attended by members of the Education Committee.

8. Recreation Committee - with Tim O'Brien as vice-pres. in charge. This committee met over a month ago to begin groundwork for Halloween Parade this fall. Tim himself has been absent from Council meetings for several months. Ralph Sims volunteered to be chairman of the committee should Tim be willing. A committee of two was approved to visit Tim and discuss the plans of the committee and also to ascertain his own availability for work as a Council vice-presidency. (The visit has since been made. Tim agreed to assist Ralph in getting the Halloween Parade plans afoot. He also will endeavor to make Council Executive Board and Committee meetings which do not interfere with his employment or work at the Church.)

On May 28 a committee will meet with Peter Schuyler, pres. of the Welfare Federation, to discuss the possibilities of getting a community center in Clinton Hill.

9. Housing Committee - under Stan Hallett, vice-pres. in charge. Stan Winters will invite Al Barkan to be chairman of the Committee. The committee will meet on June 12. Mrs. Cooper will be invited to attend. Housing is probably the key area because of the interrelatedness of overcrowding, NHA policy, zoning violations, growth of illegal mutiple dwellings, etc. A delegation will meet with Dr. Lett of the State Division Against Discrimination to discuss possibilities and means of maintaining a heterogenous neighborhood in light of the announced NHA policy of relocating over 50% of persons displaced by Central Ward projects "South of Avon Avenue."

10. Welfare & Welcome - Louise Branson, chmn under Elsie Smith, vice-pres. in charge. The committee's letter of welcome is almost finished. Florence Fanshel has agreed to make a sketch to serve as a frontispiece. Estimates of cost of printing will be obtained by Stan Winters and presented to the Exec. Bd. for approval on June 11.

11. Public Safety - under Louis Pitts, chmn. This is an ad hoc committee under Stan Winters. Its next step is to meet with Capt. Webber of the 5th Pct. to discuss 1)a citizens-police conference committee to meet when questions of police-community relations arise; 2)Attendance at block branch meetings of police officers, to meet the neighbors and mutually discuss problems of public safety. The meeting will be held on May 31, Saturday morning.

12. Planning & Liaison - Stan Aronowitz, vice-pres. in charge. This committee will aim to meet at the end of June to ascertain the present status of 1) the Urban Renewal Project; and 2)planning for the park and recreational area at 534 Clinton Avenue. A member of the Planning Division staff and Mr. Joseph Liddy, Director of Recreation of the Bd. of Educ. will be invited to attend.

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Stan Winters commend the generally high level of activity being shown by committee heads. He urged them to re-read the Annual Report for 1957 and to measure their progress by the goals set down there.

Respectfully submitted, STANLEY ARONOWITZ, Actg Recdr